

## ABSTRACT

A method for operating a plurality of stockers, comprises the steps of: monitoring utilization of the plurality of stockers, each stocker capable of storing a plurality of wafer, LCD or reticle containers; and automatically transferring a first wafer, LCD or reticle container from a  
5 first one of the stockers to a second one of the stockers if the utilization of the first stocker is greater than a predetermined threshold.